

**MINUTES OF THE
JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2007, 2:00 P.M.
Room W135, West Office Building, State Capitol Complex**

Members Present: Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Co-Chair
Rep. Bradley G. Last, Co-Chair
Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Kevin T. VanTassell
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Lorie D. Fowlke
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. Phil Riesen
Rep. Aaron Tilton
Rep. Carl Wimmer

Members Absent: Rep. Gregory H. Hughes

Staff Present: Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
J. Daniel Schoenfeld, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Rep. Menlove
Grant Peterson, Agricultural Instructor at Grantsville High School
Monica Aagard, Chapter President
Linda Rutledge, Superintendent, USDB
Lorri Quigley, Director of Educational Resource Center
Leah Vorrhies, Director of Related Services
Jill Radford, Interim Program Specialist, JMS
Lauri Buzanis, Parent
Jay McGurey, Advocate for the Deaf and Blind
Patti Harrington, State Superintendent, USOE
Velma Hamura, Science Specialist, USOE
Murrell Martin, USOE
Brent Bills, Utah Association of School Business Officials,
Washington School District
Bruce Williams, Utah Association of School Business Officials,
Davis School District
Ann Hannibal, Associate Director, Museum of Natural History
Dr. Greg Jones, State Science Advisor

Tim Miller, President of BioScience
Dr. Forest Allred, Boeing
Steve Mangall, Science Teacher
Seth Jarvis, Director, Clark Planetarium
Gary Wallace, Seismic Safety Study
Larry Newton, Finance Director, USOE
Randy Haslam, Director of New Construction in the Jordan School District
Dr. T. Leslie Youd, Professor Emeritus
Martin Blair, Assistant Director, Center for Persons with Disabilities, Utah State University
Thomas Higbee, Assistant Professor and USU Director of ASSERT
Ann Miller, Special Education Director in Weber School District
Amy Peters, Autism Consultant

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the Subcommittee minutes.

Co-Chair Stephenson called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

1. **Welcome** - Co-Chair Stephenson welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. **Approval of Minutes** -

MOTION: Rep. Wimmer moved to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2007, Subcommittee Meeting.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard, Rep. Fowlke, Rep. Froerer, Rep. Menlove, Rep. Morgan, and Rep. Tilton absent at the time of voting.

3. **Technology Update** - Co-Chair Stephenson stated that the DVDs of the January 10, 2007, Subcommittee Meeting held at Audio Enhancement are available. The DVD contains a video and menu of the entire presentation.

At this point in the meeting Rep. Menlove addressed the Subcommittee and gave a presentation on agricultural education. Rep. Menlove acknowledged the FFA Officers from Grantsville High School and their advisor and stated that these students have been helping her in presenting Agricultural Education H.B. 124. This bill seeks a total appropriation of \$50,000 to go to the State Office of Education to support two items. The first is for a \$25,000 appropriation to provide agricultural curriculum in the classroom and provide materials for middle school and high school teachers. The next item is for a

\$25,000 appropriation to support the Future Farmers of America at the high school level. Grant Peterson, Agricultural Instructor at Grantsville High School, spoke in support of this bill. Mr. Peterson introduced Monica Aagard, Chapter President, who spoke on the Supervised Agricultural Experience Program (SAE). This program gives students not only agricultural skills that are important but also accounting, communication, and business skills.

4. Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind Presentation of Connor Street Building -

Superintendent Rutledge addressed the Subcommittee and stated that the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind are requesting a centralized facility in the Salt Lake area to replace 78,582 square feet of current space. The proposed 61,290 square foot facility will accommodate students and staff from the leased Connor Street location, the leased South Jordan Facility, and twelve classrooms from Granite School District. The location will be adjacent to an elementary school and in close proximity to a high school and a middle school. The building will support the Educational Resources Center, the Utah State Instructional Material Access Center, support training, and provide office space for administration, consultants, support staff, and other related services staff. Superintendent Rutledge further stated that with the merger of the Jean Massieu School with the USDB, this facility is a priority. The facility where JMS is presently located was abandoned by the Jordan School District and does not provide a strong educational setting for USDB students. This building will no longer be available for lease, and the building is scheduled for demolition after July 1, 2008. JMS requires a common location to support the teaching philosophy for the preschool through twelfth grade programs. Granite School District and USDB have a history of a cooperative and supportive relationship. The District has worked to provide classrooms but is unable to provide the necessary stability for the students. More than 30 classrooms are located in seven schools located in the Granite School District. Due to closures and population changes, the classrooms are often moved from school to school. USDB provides services throughout the state, and the Salt Lake City Facility is one of the three hubs necessary to serve more than 2,000 students statewide. The facility does not meet the needs of space or specialized classrooms for students. A handout given to the Subcommittee details this information. The following individuals spoke in support for a new facility:

Lorri Quigley, Director of Educational Resource Center
Leah Vorrhies, Director of Related Services
Jill Radford, Interim Program Specialist, JMS
Lauri Buzanis, Parent
Jay McGurey, Advocate for the Deaf and Blind

Superintendent Rutledge concluded by asking for continued support for a new facility, and that the building would be located in the west side of Granite School District.

MOTION: Co-Chair Last moved that this Subcommittee through the Co-Chairs draft a letter to the Capital Facilities Appropriations Subcommittee that expresses support for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and Blind Building, and that the request be included in the Capital Facilities List for FY 2008.

Discussion from Subcommittee on the motion included the money amount for the appropriation and whether this request is for land and building. The amount of the request is \$15.8 million and does include land purchase.

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Hillyard absent at the time of voting.

5. **Pupil Transportation** - Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, gave an overview of this agenda item. Mr. Leishman referred to the Issue Brief - Pupil Transportation. This brief provides information contained in an interim report to the Executive Appropriations Committee prepared by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst in July 2006. State funding for pupil transportation is appropriated each year by the Legislature through the Minimum School Program. Appropriated funds support two transportation programs: Pupil Transportation - To and From School and, Pupil Transportation. Information presented in the brief focuses on the To and From School Transportation. The program provides \$64.3 million (FY 2008 base budget) in ongoing revenue to school districts to support the transportation of students to and from school each day. Information contained in tables provided in this brief indicates that over the past 15 years, the Legislature has doubled the amount of Uniform School Fund revenue appropriated to the To and From Program. Historically, the percent increase appropriated by the Legislature to support pupil transportation closely reflects the percent increase in the value of the WPU. School districts receive funding by transporting eligible students to and from school on a formula basis. The formula has four components that when summed, determine the level of funding a school district receives. Funding is distributed based on various rates. These rates include:

- Time Allowance
- Mileage Allowance
- Depreciation Allowance
- Administration Allowance

The Legislature has heard reports from school districts that the state is under funding pupil transportation in the school districts. All of these components tie into fuel or salary costs. It is difficult to assess a potential under funding of pupil transportation by the state. Several measures could be used to determine the full extent of under-funding claims. The Interim Pupil Transportation report focused on two: total cost for To and From Transportation and total cost of the pupil transportation finance formula compared

to revenue appropriated to support the formula. The Analyst recommends that the State Board of Education annually adjust and approve the Transportation Finance Formula allowance rates. The Board should also submit the adjusted rates, along with annual cost estimates to the Legislature in its annual budget request. Other recommendations are also given in this brief.

Superintendent Harrington addressed the Subcommittee and stated that the State Board of Education will review the transportation formula. A GPS system will also be evaluated. The review will hopefully improve the entire pupil transportation system.

Murrell Martin, USOE, spoke to the Subcommittee and stated that due to the fact that per mile and per minute costs have not been adjusted as needed for several years, the increase in cost per mile and per minute reflects cost increases that have taken place over several years. Without funding for these cost increases, most districts have had to use other education funds for pupil transportation. During this same period of time, Utah has seen growth that is reflected in growth in miles and minutes. A handout details the processes used to capture cost increases, processes used to obtain an average cost per mile and per minute, and efficiency incentives built into the formula. The recommendation is that the state cover 85 percent to and from school pupil transportation costs for Utah school districts and the USDB.

Brent Bills and Bruce Williams, Utah Association of School Business Officials, representing Washington and Davis School Districts, gave their remarks to the Subcommittee. A handout given to the Subcommittee details expenditures and revenues for pupil transportation. A recommendation states the need for \$18.5 million ongoing funding to raise the State contribution from current funding to 85 percent. The handout also requests a need for USBA, USSA, UASBO, and USBE to continue working toward an improved data collection and distribution formula that enhances transparency, verifiability, and ease of use for decision makers. The goal is to have this ready for implementation by the next Legislative session.

Ben Leishman, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, mentioned that another recommendation from the Analyst is that the State Board of Education conduct a study during the 2007 interim that fully reviews the components of the Transportation Finance Formula, school district reporting procedures, mechanisms to annually adjust formula components, and FY 2009 cost estimates. This review should include the school districts, district business officials, transportation specialists, and other interested parties.

6. **Analyst Budget Presentation - Science Outreach** - Mr. Leishman continued with an explanation of the Budget Brief - Science Educational Outreach. The Science Educational Outreach Program assists Utah's professional science organizations in

providing their expertise in teaching the State's science core curriculum in the public schools. At the conclusion of FY 2007, another science RFP participant will meet the requirements to become a statewide iSEE outreach provider. The State Board of Education has approved the transition of Red Butte Gardens into the iSEE Program and requests \$120,000 in ongoing Uniform School Fund revenue to support this transition. The Analyst recommends that the Legislature provide an increased appropriation of \$120,000 in ongoing Uniform School Fund revenue to the iSEE Program to support an additional statewide science outreach provider.

7. **Science Outreach Presentation** - Patti Harrington, State Superintendent, USOE, introduced Velma Hamura, Science Specialist, USOE, who addressed the Subcommittee concerning science in the classroom. She stated that during the 2006 Legislative session, the Clark Planetarium, Utah Museum of Natural History, Discovery Gateway, and Living Planet Aquarium were separated from the POPS Arts Group and reorganized as iSEE. This organization asks for consideration of the following funding requests during the 2007 Legislative session:

- Red Butte Garden to join iSEE as a line-item organization
- Implementation of a Teacher Resource Pilot Program

The Teacher Resource Pilot Program would provide additional support for science education in the public schools. To assist teachers in effectively engaging students with science content throughout the school year, the iSEE partnership proposes to create a series of teacher resources to be piloted in five school districts during the coming year. The total funding request is for \$350,000–\$120,000 for the addition of Red Butte Garden and \$230,000 for the implementation of the Teacher resource Pilot Program.

The following individuals spoke in support of the iSEE Program:

Ann Hannibal, Associate Director, Museum of Natural History
Dr. Greg Jones, State Science Advisor
Tim Miller, President of BioScience
Dr. Forest Allred, Boeing
Steve Mangall, Science Teacher
Seth Jarvis, Director, Clark Planetarium

8. **Public Comment** - Gary Wallace, Seismic Safety Study; Larry Newton, Finance Director, USOE; Randy Haslam, Director of New Construction in the Jordan School District; and Dr. T. Leslie Youd, Professor Emeritus spoke in behalf of seismic safety in schools. Mr. Newton stated that there are 23 schools along the 1-15 corridor from Idaho to Nevada. that have been identified as high seismic risk schools. The request from the Utah State Office of Education

is for a one-time \$500,000 dollar for dollar match allocation for school districts to do an engineering analysis of every school building in Utah to determine if they are seismic safe. This information will assist those districts in planning for the future by either replacing deficient buildings or upgrading existing buildings. Handouts were provided to the Subcommittee detailing the size of this problem in Utah schools.

Martin Blair, Assistant Director, Center for Persons with Disabilities, Utah State University; Thomas Higbee, Assistant Professor and USU Director of ASSERT; Ann Miller, Special Education Director in Weber School District; and Amy Peters, Autism Consultant spoke on autism and the ASSERT Program. The ASSERT (Autism Support Services: Education, Research, and Training) program is a collaborative effort between the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation and the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University. ASSERT benefits school districts by providing intensive training to education personnel, education of professions throughout Utah by providing a model training classroom, and to assist children with autism, and their families, by providing effective educational and behavioral early intervention. The funding request is for \$200,000.

MOTION: Sen. Jones moved to adjourn.

Co-Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Cherie Schmidt, Secretary

Sen. Howard Stephenson, Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Bradley G. Last, Committee Co-Chair